

March 14, 2013

My name is Michael Hannan I am a resident of Quaker Hill, CT. I am currently the Vice-Chairman of the Waterford Republican Town Committee and a former member of the Waterford Representative Town Meeting. I am not here today representing either of these organizations. I am here as a private citizen to express my concerns on any new proposed gun control laws and regulations that are being considered.

The term "gun control" has never in history been about the gun or firearm but all about the control. Illinois Representative Jan Schakowsky, a member of the Democratic Party's leadership in the House of Representatives, has suggested that plans for an assault weapons ban is only the beginning of a broader gun control agenda and is looking to have it extended to include hand guns as well. Add to this all of the well intentioned, I'm sure, legislation that is being proposed in Connecticut and it becomes very clear very quickly that many of our rights are about to become violated.

When this nation was founded the Second Amendment was crucial for keeping Americans free from tyrants and to stop out of control Governments. The Second Amendment of United States Constitution reads in part "...the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." The Connecticut State Constitution Article First, The Declaration of Rights, Section 15 reads in full "Every citizen has the right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state." You have taken an oath to uphold and defend these documents. Is it your intention to violate this oath and take away the ability for tens of thousands law abiding citizens, your constituents, to be able to defend themselves in the name of safety?

We hear a great deal today about gun control "for your safety". This is another phrase that has been used in the past to disarm a nations citizens, both here in the U.S. and abroad. In the United States prior to the U.S. Civil War the slaves were denied the use of firearms, for their safety. Really it was to protect the slave owners but this was an excuse that they used. It was meant to keep them as slaves. You can not suppress people unless they are completely disarmed. After the Civil War the newly freed slaves were once again denied the use of firearms, once again it was for their safety. Laws were enacted by the pro slavery Democrats to deny them access to and the possession of firearms. It was the very last thing keeping them from true freedom. These people were terrorized by the KKK and any other group or person that wanted to because they knew that they could not defend themselves with a firearm. If you take away any persons right to self defense you have taken away a basic principle that this country was founded on.

The founding fathers of this nation have enshrined in the founding documents the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every one of us has the right to life, the right to property and the right to protect our property and our own life. Universal access to a firearm is indispensable to freedom. Recall that the British government tried to disarm the American colonists in 1775. Why would they want to do that? So that they could be controlled. And we all can remember how that turned out.

Chairman Mao said "Political power comes from the end of a gun...". All dictators, tyrants, fascist and control freaks have always disarmed their citizens. It makes it much easier to control a population if they can't defend themselves. And it is always done under the guise of "it's for your own safety". We have been down this road before in world history and it never ends well for the disarmed people. Millions upon millions have died while being subjected to these rubrics of "gun control" and "safety". I am not suggesting that this is your end goal here, to become tyrannical, but as you have seen the pattern here there always seems to be a disarming of the citizenry and then very bad things happen to them.

In closing, once again "gun control" is all about the control not about the gun. Enacting laws for our safety isn't really about keeping us safe, it's all about people who are trying to hold onto or grab more power. Name for me which common sense gun control law that would have prevented the Sandy Hook tragedy? By my counting Adam Lanza broke at least 9 laws that are currently on the books in this state and not one of those laws stopped him. He didn't care about violating some laws; he only knew that he wanted to commit some unbelievable act of violence.

Which law will stop people from harming themselves or others? The truth of the matter is that law abiding citizens will do just that, abide by the law. Criminals will never abide by the law, they just don't care. It's all about what they want and what they want to do. I ask you to stand by your oaths to protect and defend the Constitutions of the United States of American and the state of Connecticut and do not allow the citizens of this state to be disarmed and unable to defend themselves. You will not make us safe if you enact any gun control laws, you will only make us victims. Do not violate our God given rights.

Regards,

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